



## DEAR CHURCH

### COLOSSIANS

Scholar and theologian Terrance Fretheim once said, “It is not enough that you believe in God. What is important, finally, is the kind of God in whom you believe.” In other words, what we believe about God is just as important as whether or not we believe in God at all. This week, we are looking at the letter of Colossians. Paul is writing to a church struggling to hold onto the simple and yet profound truth that Jesus plus nothing equals everything.

#### **Day 1 Read Colossians 1:1-14**

Summarize Pauls’ prayer in verses 9-14 in your own words. What does Paul want for them? How are you encouraged by this prayer? How are you challenged by it?

#### **Day 2 Read Colossians 1:15-2:5**

Summarize what Paul says about who Jesus is in your own words. If we believe this to be true, then how should we live in light of it

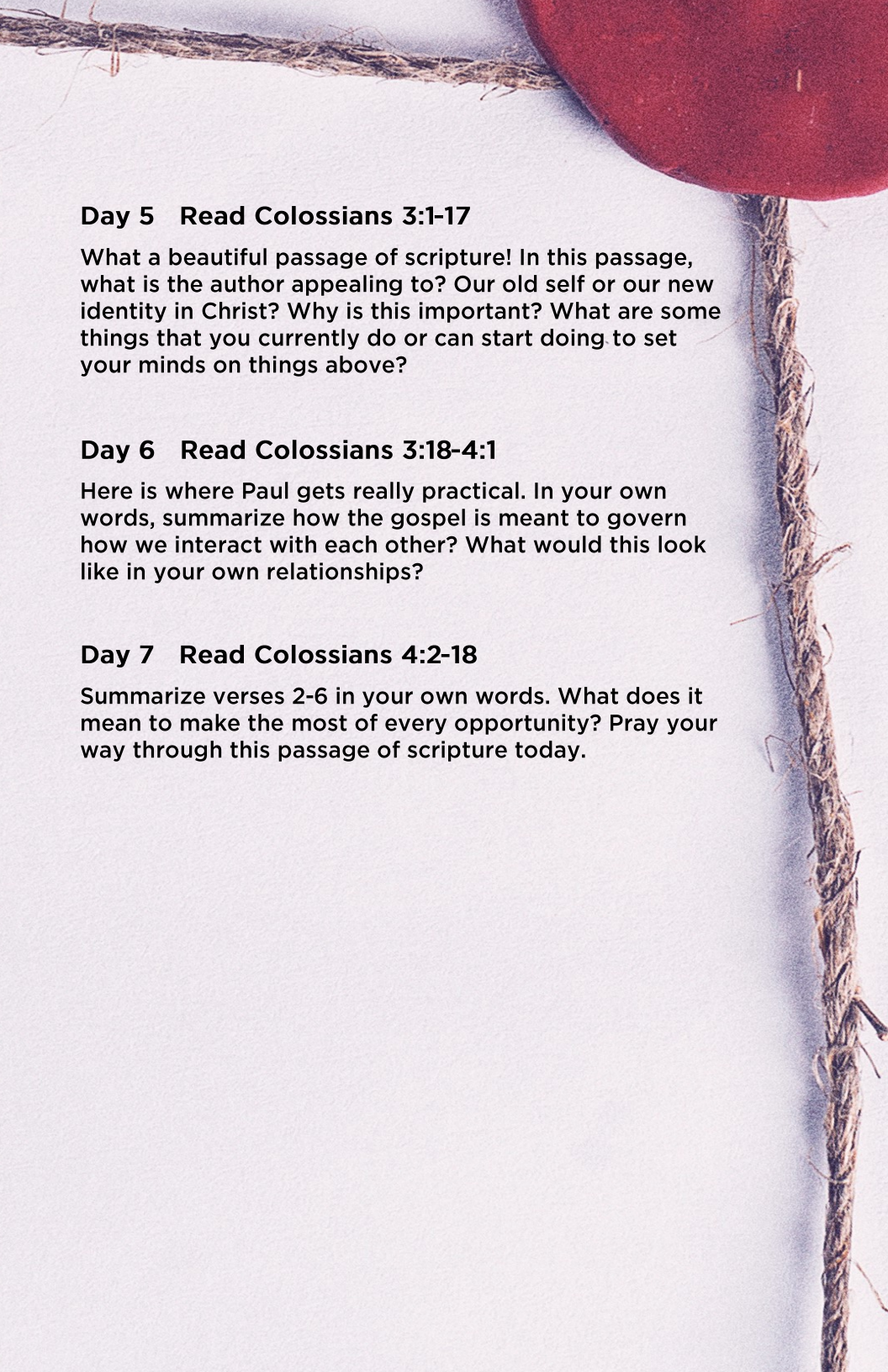
#### **Day 3 Read Colossians 2:6-15**

Here’s where we get a sense of some of the challenges this young church was up against. What were some of them? How would Pauls’ words have been both challenging and encouraging for them?

#### **Day 4 Read Colossians 2:16-23**

It seems that a form of paganism had begun to infiltrate the church. It was centered around keeping certain spirits pleased with you while also collecting a bunch of secret knowledge that would lead to an enlightenment. How does Paul speak into this? How does Paul’s words continue to speak to us today?





**Day 5 Read Colossians 3:1-17**

What a beautiful passage of scripture! In this passage, what is the author appealing to? Our old self or our new identity in Christ? Why is this important? What are some things that you currently do or can start doing to set your minds on things above?

**Day 6 Read Colossians 3:18-4:1**

Here is where Paul gets really practical. In your own words, summarize how the gospel is meant to govern how we interact with each other? What would this look like in your own relationships?

**Day 7 Read Colossians 4:2-18**

Summarize verses 2-6 in your own words. What does it mean to make the most of every opportunity? Pray your way through this passage of scripture today.